

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00807 161341Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

COME-00 AGR-20 PM-07 DODE-00 RSR-01 /065 W

----- 102327

R 160915Z AUG 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0807

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ECRP CH

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HOPEI, SHANSHI AND SHENSI

FOLLOWING ARE IMPRESSIONS OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HOPEI, SHANSHI AND SHENSI GATHERED BY DC HOLDRIDGE DURING AUGUST 9-14 TRIP TO YENAN AND SIAN, WITH LAYOVER IN TAIYUAN DUE TO AIRCRAFT/WEATHER PROBLEMS. TRAVEL TO YANAN AND SIAN BY AIR; RETURN FROM SIAN TO PEKING BY RAIL.

A- TAIYUAN. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AT HIGH LEVEL WITH CONSIDERABLE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION NOTED. PLANTS SEEN ACROSS CHIN RIVER FROM TAIYUAN INCLUDED STEEL MILL, REFINERY AND CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT (DISTINGUISHED BY TALL, THIN SOMKESTACK PRODUCING YELLOW SMOKE). IN ADDITION TO LARG VOLUME OF TRANSPORTATION PULLED BY ANIMALS, MANY VARIOUS KINDS OF MOTOR VEHICLES OBSERVED, INCLUDING NUMEROUS SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE TRACTORS. MAJOR CROPS IN VICINITY OF TAIYUAN CONSISTED OF RICE AND CORN. POND FISH CULTRUE BEING CONDUCTED IN RICE-GROWING AREAS. AMPLE WATER AVAILABLE FROM CHIN RIVER.

B- YENAN. HIGH LEVEL OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT NOTED; PLANS (NOT VISITED BUT MENTIONED BY CADRES) INCLUDED TEXTILES

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 00807 161341Z

AND MATCHES. TRANSPORTATION CONSISTED OF MIXTURE OF ANIMAL-

DRAWN CARTS AND VARIOUS TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING MANY SMALL TRACTORS. ON AGRICULTURAL SIDE, PRINCIPAL CROPS CONSISTED OF KAOLIANG, CORN, MILLET AND SUNFLOWERS. CONSIDERABLE EFFORT DEVOTED TO REFORESTATION, WITH FRUIT TREES PLANTED ON LOWER SLOPES OF SURROUNDING HILLS ABOVE TERRACED FIELDS. HILLTOPS PRESENTLY BARE BUT USED FOR WINTER WHEAT PLANTING LATER ON. WEATHER CONDITIONS VERY DRY, WITH CONCERN ABOUT WEATHER EXPRESSED BY CADRES. LAST RAIN HAD OCCURRED END OF JULY. ALL SKILLED WORKERS, INCLUDING TRUCK/TRACTOR DRIVERS AND MACHINISTS AT PRODUCTION BRIGADE VISITED WERE IN FIELDS HELPING OUT REST OF PEASANTS MOVE PUMPS ABOUT TO IRRIGATE TERRACED FIELDS. WATER LEVEL IN YEN RIVER VERY LOW, AND RIVER WATER SUPPLEMENTED BY WELLS FOR IRRIGATION. AS YET NO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO CROPS.

C- SIAN. ALTHOUGH MUCH ECONOMIC ACTIVITY NOTED AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUING (TEXTILES, PRECISION INSTRUMENTS, POWER PLANTS), SIAN AREA IN GENERAL MUCH POORER THAN OTHER CENTERS VISITED. UNLIKE TAIYUAN AND YENAN, SIGNIFICANT PART OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY HUMAN-DRAWN CONVEYANCES OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS, INCLUDING SOME CARRYING VERY HEAVY LOADS, ALSO, UNLIKE OTHER AREAS, FEW TRACTORS OBSERVED. AGRICULTURALLY, ALTHOUGH SUMMER CROPS (KAOLIANG AND ESPECIALLY CORN) HAD EVIDENTLY INITIALLY ENJOYED GOOD GROWING CONDITIONS, EFFECTS OF HEAT AND DRYNESS NOW EVIDENT ON CROPS DESPITE IRRIGATION EFFORTS (FROM WELLS). BA RIVER DRY; WEI RIVER ALMOST SO. FROM THE AIR ABRUPT TRANSITION NOTICEABLE FROM GREEN FIELDS IN WEI/BA VALLEYS WHERE IRRIGATION AVAILABLE TO BROWN-COLORED UPLANDS DEPENDENT ENTIRELY ON RAINFALL. MUCH CONCERN EXPRESSED IN SIAN REGION ABOUT WEATHER CONDITIONS.

D- OTHER AREAS. DRYNESS OBSERVED ON RETURN TRIP ALONG RAILROAD LINE UNTIL SHICHUANG, THEN TURNING TO PLENTIFULLY-WATERED AREA ON NORTH CHINA PLAN ALL THE WAY TO PEKING. SOME CROPS HERE AFFECTED BY LOGGING DUE TO HEAVY RAINS. AGAIN PRINCIPAL CROPS KAOLIANG AND CORN. FRESHLY CONSTRUCTED CYLINDRICAL GRAIN STORAGE BINS SEEN AT SEVERAL CENTERS ALONG ROUTE, ALL APPARENTLY ACCORDING TO ONE COMMON PLAN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 00807 161341Z

E- DOWN TO COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH (DCY). DCY UBIQUITOUS IN YENAN AND SIAN (NO OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE CLOSELY ELSEWHERE). 20,000 DCY SAID TO HAVE BEEN SENT FROM PEKING TO YENAN AREA IN 1969, WITH FURTHER INCREMENT APPARENTLY ARRIVING IN 1971. PRODUCTION BRIGADE NOTED IN B ABOVE HAD RECEIVED 90 DCY SINCE 1969, INCLUDING TWO SUCCESSIVE GROUPS FROM PEKING AND ONE FROM YENAN AREA, WHOSE

MEMBERS LIVED APART FROM OTHER BRIGADE MEMBERS. MANY HAD  
LATER SUCCEEDED IN LEAVING BRIGADE FOR JOBS IN YENAN,  
E.G. GUIDES IN REVOLUTIONARY MUSEUM ALL FROM PEKING. NO  
OPPORTUNITY IN SIAN TO OBSERVE DCY SITUATION CLOSELY  
BUT PRESENCE OF SIMILARLY DRESSED YOUNG PEOPLE OF COMMON  
AGE GROUP IN FIELDS SUGGESTS LARGE NUMBER OF DCY. CHINA  
TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED ONE GUY  
PULLING EXTREMELY HEAVY LOAD AT BANPO MUSEUM AS DCY FROM  
PEKING.

F- ELECTRIFICATION. THIS WAS WIDESPREAD, AT LEAST  
ALONG RAIL LINE. SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF RURAL LANDSCAPE  
WAS HEAVY USE OF ELECTRICALLY-OPERATED PUMPS FOR  
IRRIGATION PURPOSES, FOR MOST PART FROM WELLS.  
BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CONSTRUCTION, IRRIGATION, DROUGHTS, BUILDINGS, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PEKING00807  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2 BRUCE  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PEKING  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730834/aaaaayqh.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2001 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HOPEI, SHANSHI AND SHENSI FOLLOWING ARE IMPRESSIONS OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN  
**TAGS:** ECRP, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005